

## STATE OF MARYLAND

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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ML#107560

September 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED &amp; INSPECTED

OCT 09 2007

FCC-MAIL

**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45, Certification Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.314**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, the Public Service Commission of Maryland ("Maryland PSC") hereby certifies to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") that Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong") is eligible to receive federal high-cost support for the period commencing January 1, 2008 and ending December 31, 2008, and that Armstrong will utilize the federal high-cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

In support of the foregoing certification, enclosed is an Affidavit executed by Armstrong's President certifying that Armstrong will only utilize the federal high-cost support received in the calendar year 2008 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Finally, we ask that you date stamp the enclosed extra copy of this filing and return it to the Maryland PSC in the accompanying stamped, self-addressed envelope.

By Direction of the Commission,

Donald P. Eveleth  
Deputy Executive Secretary

Enclosures

cc: James D. Mitchell, President, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland

Ms. Irene Flannery  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

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Website: [www.psc.state.md.us/psc/](http://www.psc.state.md.us/psc/)



# ARMSTRONG®

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

OCT 09 2007

FCC-MAILROOM

August 23, 2007

O. Ray Bourland  
Executive Secretary  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

**RE: Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland Request for Commission Certification  
Pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended**

Dear Executive Secretary Bourland:

Enclosed please find an original and three (3) copies of the annual filing of Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland (hereinafter "Armstrong"), an independent rural telephone company authorized to do business and operating in Maryland, to request that Maryland Public Service Commission (hereinafter "Commission") provide certification, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.314, to the Universal Service Administrative Company (hereinafter "USAC") and the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter "FCC") that Armstrong is eligible to continue to receive federal high cost support.

As background, pursuant to its May 23, 2001 Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order of Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the case of In the Matter of Federal – State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45 ("Order"), the FCC mandated that states seeking federal high cost support for rural carriers annually file a certificate with the FCC and USAC to ensure that such support is used in a manner consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter "Act").

Beginning at Paragraph 185 of its Order, the FCC addressed the requirement that states seeking federal universal service high-cost support, file an annual certification with the FCC and USAC. The FCC mandated this annual certification, in a manner similar to that earlier required by the FCC for states seeking federal support for non-rural carriers, to be filed by the state Commissions with the FCC to ensure that carriers within each state use universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended", consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act. As such, it is necessary that this Commission provide certification to the FCC and USAC.

Specifically, paragraph 187 provides that the FCC "will require states that wish to receive federal universal service high cost support to rural carriers within their boundaries to file a certification with the Commission and USAC stating that all federal high-cost funds flowing to rural carriers in that state will be used in a manner consistent with Section 254(e). Absent such certification, carriers will not receive

**ARMSTRONG TELEPHONE COMPANY**

ONE ARMSTRONG PLACE • BUTLER, PA 16001  
724-283-0925 • FAX 724-283-1420

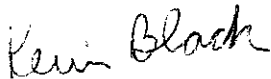
such federal support.” This certification requirement is applicable to all rural carriers and competitive eligible telecommunications carriers seeking high-cost support in the service of a rural local exchange carrier.

Armstrong has made similar filings with this Commission with the most recent in August of 2006, for the period ending December 31, 2005. By letter dated September 15, 2006, this Commission certified to the FCC that Armstrong would utilize all federal high cost support provided to it in a manner consistent with §254(e) of the Act for the period ending December 31, 2005. The information in this filing includes updated access line counts for 2006 and the total figure for Universal Service Support received for 2006, attached hereto as Appendix A, and an Affidavit executed by Armstrong President, James D. Mitchell, certifying that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds received by Armstrong for the year will be utilized for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Act through December 31, 2008. The information in this filing is intended to facilitate the Commission certification to the FCC that Armstrong, as a rural telecommunications carrier seeking high cost support, will use that support in a manner consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act within the State of Maryland.

The FCC has required that state certifications be filed with the FCC and USAC one month before USAC's quarterly filing is due, or on or before October 1, 2007. Mailing addresses for the FCC and the USAC are attached here as Appendix B. Please note that failure by the Commission to submit this certification to the FCC by October 1, 2007 will result in Armstrong being denied federal high cost support for the first quarter of the 2008 calendar year, and for every quarter thereafter until the annual certification is made. Accordingly, your immediate attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kevin Black, Controller

KB/dwf  
Enclosures

c. Susan S. Miller, General Counsel  
Maryland Public Service Commission

**UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

EXHIBIT A

Armstrong Telephone Company  
Request for federal high cost support  
August 23, 2007

Access line counts for 2006:

March	7,297
June	7,212
September	7,156
December	7,091

Total Universal Service Support received during 2006 was \$1,807,434.

## **APPENDIX B**

Mailing Address and Information for the FCC and the USAC are as follows:

**FCC (For Commercial overnight mail, except United States Postal Service)**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capital Heights, MD 20743

**(All other mail included United States Postal Service Express Mail, Priority Mail and First Class Mail)**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**USAC: (for all deliveries)**

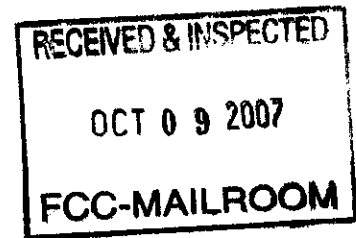
Irene Flannery  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

:  
:  
: SS

COUNTY OF BUTLER

:



### AFFIDAVIT

Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. §54.314, Armstrong Telephone Company of Maryland ("Armstrong" or "Company") hereby certifies that all federal Universal Service high cost support funds flowing to the Company, a rural local exchange carrier, will only be utilized in the year 2008 for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act").

Specifically, Armstrong certifies that it will utilize its universal service support, in the amounts shown by USAC on its website form [498.universalservice.org/hc/disbursements/default.aspx](http://498.universalservice.org/hc/disbursements/default.aspx) for the Company, for the provision, maintenance, and/or upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended.

In support of this certification, Armstrong represents the following:

- (1) Armstrong provided the supported services required by U.S.C. § 214(e);
- (2) Armstrong advertised the availability of supported services and the charges for them as required by U.S.C. § 214 (e); and

- (3) Funds received by Armstrong from the federal high-cost universal service support fund will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Based upon the information provided in one or more of the above three categories, Armstrong certifies that it utilizes its federal universal service support for the purposes intended under Section 254(e) of the Act.

By James D. Mitchell  
James D. Mitchell  
President

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August,  
2007.

Kelly D. Chapman  
Notary Public  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Notarial Seal  
Kelly D. Chapman, Notary Public  
Butler Twp., Butler County  
My Commission Expires July 30, 2010  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

My Commission Expires:

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